

SENATE BILL 3031
By Dixon

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, is amended by adding Sections 2 through 9 of this act as a new part thereto.

SECTION 2. This act shall be known as the "21st Century Neighborhood Schools Act".

SECTION 3. The purpose of this act is to authorize a pilot project of schools which are designed to meet the singular needs of the community in which such school is located. These 21st Century schools shall be allowed to develop their own curricula and means of teaching such curricula in order to accommodate the special needs of their community.

SECTION 4. (a) Any school seeking to establish a 21st Century Neighborhood school within a local education agency may apply to the state board of education to establish a 21st Century Neighborhood school. If the applicant seeks to convert a public school to a 21st Century Neighborhood school, the application shall include a statement signed by a majority of the teachers and instructional support personnel currently employed at the school indicating that they favor the conversion and evidence that a significant number of parents of children enrolled in the school favor conversion.

(b) Any school seeking to establish a 21st Century Neighborhood school within a local education agency shall submit a plan to the state board of education describing what innovations such school intends to explore and how such school will evaluate such innovations.

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SECTION 5. If the state board of education approves a school's plan for a 21st Century Neighborhood school such school shall receive the same funding it would have received if it had not received such approval.

SECTION 6. The 21st Century Neighborhood school plans shall be evaluated by the school superintendent and the local board of education to ensure that no state law, rule or regulation is being violated by such school. If such school is notified by the school superintendent or the local board of education that a state law, rule or regulation has been violated or is subject to being violated then such school shall cease such action immediately.

SECTION 7. The provisions of this act shall only apply to grades K-4.

SECTION 8. Any school which wishes to become a 21st Century Neighborhood school shall hold at least one (1) public hearing so that interested persons in the neighborhood can receive information regarding the proposals to be considered and can voice their support or objections to such proposals.

SECTION 9. The state board of education is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations pursuant to title 4, chapter 5, to implement the provisions of this act.

SECTION 10. For the purpose of promulgating rules and regulations, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes this act shall take effect July 1, 1999, the public welfare requiring it.